

CURRENTLY PENDING CLAIMS

41. (Amended) A fusion protein comprising the immunogenic polypeptide of claim 53.

42. (Amended) The immunogenic polypeptide of claim 53 linked to a suitable carrier.

43. The immunogenic polypeptide of claim 42 linked to a disulfide/amide-forming agent.

44. The immunogenic polypeptide of claim 42 linked to a thio-ether-forming agent.

46. (Amended) The immunogenic polypeptide of claim 57 wherein the polypeptide is linked to a disulfide/amide-forming agent.

47. (Amended) The immunogenic polypeptide of claim 57 wherein the polypeptide is linked to a thio-ether-forming agent.

52. (Amended) An immunogenic composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and the immunogenic polypeptide of claim 53.

53. An immunogenic polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence motif
Xaa-Thr-Xaa-Val-Thr-Gly-Gly-Xaa-Ala-Ala-Arg-Thr-Thr-Xaa-Gly-Xaa-Xaa-Ser-
Leu-Phe-Xaa-Xaa-Gly-Xaa-Ser-Gln-Xaa-Ile-Gln-Leu-Ile (SEQ ID NO:8).

54. (Amended) The immunogenic polypeptide of claim 53, wherein

Xaa at position 1 is an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Ala, Ser, Glu, Gln, Gly, His, Thr, Asp, Arg, Lys, Asn, and Val;

Xaa at position 3 is an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Tyr, Gln, Arg, His, Thr, Asn, Ile, Leu, and Ser;

Xaa at position 8 is an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Ala, Gln, Val, Ile, Asn, Thr, Ser, Lys, Glu, Arg, and His;

Xaa at position 14 is an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Asn, Arg, His, Lys, Ala, Tyr, Ser, Phe, Leu, Gln, and Thr;

Xaa at position 16 is an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Phe, Val, Ile, and Leu;

Xaa at position 17 is an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Val, Ala, Thr, Ser, and Pro;

Xaa at position 21 is an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Arg, Ser, Gly, Thr, Asn, Met, Ala, Leu, Thr, Gln, Asp, Lys, and Glu;

Xaa at position 22 is an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Ser, Pro, Leu, Val, His, Arg, Tyr, Gln, Thr, and Ala;

Xaa at position 24 is an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Ala, Ser, and Pro; and

Xaa at position 27 is an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Asn, Asp, Lys, Arg, Thr, and Glu.

55. (New) The immunogenic polypeptide of claim 42, wherein the carrier is diphtheria toxoid.

56. (New) The immunogenic composition of claim 52, wherein the carrier is diphtheria toxoid.

57. (New) ~~The~~ immunogenic polypeptide of claim 54 linked to a suitable carrier.